

# High School Counselor Newsletter

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! In this issue we want to bring you updated and relevant information from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). With the early Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) filing that opened on October 1 and Grade Point Average (GPA) submissions from high school counselors, we at CSAC are doing everything we can to make both submission processes as easy and smooth as possible. Please find up-to-date information, dates, mini-training videos, and forms on our website at: [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).

## Important Dates

- ♦ **October 1, 2016** — 2017-18 FAFSA/CADAA Chafee Applications Opened
- ♦ **November 2016** — Initial Cal Grant Award Eligibility Notifications
- ♦ **November 2016** — University of California/California State University Applications Close
- ♦ **March 2, 2017** — GPA Submission Deadline
- ♦ **March 2, 2017** — 2017-18 Cal Grant Application Deadline

*“The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think.”*

*-Albert Einstein*



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## CASH FOR C//LLEGE

### Still Time to Schedule Workshops

The California Cash for College (CCFC) workshops are set up to help schools and counselors assist low income and first generation college-bound high school seniors with applying for possible financial aid. This year, with the early FAFSA, the workshops began on October 1, 2016 and will continue through the March 2, 2017 Cal Grant deadline.

If you have not scheduled your workshop yet or have not hosted one before but are interested, there is still time to set-up it up! If you are a new host, please [register](#) to become an approved host and work with your [Regional Coordinating Organization \(RCO\)](#) or the Statewide Office to schedule your workshop.

All workshop processes are now being automated through the Workshop Management System (WMS) application. This includes requesting and approval of your CCFC workshops, placing material orders and requesting site support funding. The RCO for your region will review all requests and approve workshops or request additional information accordingly.

Should you have any questions or need assistance in the registration process, please contact your RCO or the [Statewide Office](#). You may also access the [WMS User Guide](#) for assistance with account setup.

#### Cash For College: Useful Links

- ◆ [Cash For College Homepage: www.cash4college.org](#)
- ◆ [Cash For College Workshop Management System User Login](#)
- ◆ [Cash For College Student User Guide](#)
- ◆ [Fund Your Future Magazine](#)
- ◆ [Cash For College Partners](#)

### Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award

The Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award, named after the longest-serving executive director in the history of the CSAC, is a \$1500 annual award that goes to one outstanding California high school counselor who demonstrates exemplary skills in helping students fulfil their dreams of going to college.

Nominations can be submitted by District and County leadership, school counselor/teacher colleagues, or site administration. One winner will be chosen by the CSAC.

Please start thinking of a nominee. We will post the nomination form and process soon to the CSAC's website, as well as send a notification out to our list-serve.



# WebGrants 4 Students

What is WebGrants 4 Students and why is it so important for students to use? Many students do not know that they need to create a WebGrants 4 Students (WGS) account after they have completed the FAFSA or CADAA so that they can claim their awards. This account also allows students to access tools, resources, and other information that will be helpful with the college financial aid process.

## Steps for student to create their own account:

1. Go to the [WebGrants 4 Students](#) homepage. (This can also be accessed through CSAC's homepage).
2. Select the "Create an Account" link.
3. Students will need to use their Social Security Number or Dream Act ID, first name, middle initial (optional), last name, and date of birth to match the CSAC's records from the student's FAFSA or CADAA
4. If their information matches their FAFSA or CADAA their account will be created.

## WebGrants 4 Students: Support Contacts

- ◆ Support for Counselors:
  - ◇ Institutional Support  
[schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)  
1-888-294-0153
- ◆ Additional support for Students:
  - ◇ Student Support  
[studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov)  
1-888-224-7268

## Important Reminders for WGS-

- To claim award students **MUST** go to WGS and:
  - Confirm School of Attendance (must be on their FAFSA/CADAA)
  - Confirm that their High School Graduation is certified
- Students who do not claim their Cal Grant award and who are not claimed by a college, will have their award withdrawn at the end of the academic year.
- If a student is ineligible for a grant they can find the reason on the California Aid Report screen

 A screenshot of the WebGrants 4 Students website. The header says "monitor & manage YOUR CAL GRANT 24/7". Below this is a "Welcome!" message and a paragraph explaining the purpose of the account. A central box contains the "WebGrants 4 Students Sign-In" form with fields for "User ID" and "Password", and a "Sign-in" button. To the left of the form is a yellow box with "Authorized Use Only" and a warning about sensitive information. Below the form is a "Create an Account" link and a note about browser requirements: "PC and Laptops using: Internet Explorer 7 and higher Mozilla Firefox 2 and higher". To the right of the form is a sidebar with various links: "How to Apply for a Cal Grant Award", "Understanding My Cal Grant", "Disqualification Fact Sheet", "Important Cal Grant / Chafee Updates", "Important Deadlines", "Search for a Cal Grant Eligible School", "Financial Aid Programs", "Forms / Applications", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Foster Youth Resources", "Other Financial Aid Resources and Important Links", "Security Information", "Tools", and "Help Center". At the bottom of the sidebar is a link "How are we doing?".

WGS should be used on current versions of the following:

- Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari

# Early FAFSA Reminders

Since the 2017-18 FAFSA/CADAA/Chafee Applications opened much earlier this year, October 1, 2016, we have provided some reminders to make the process easier for both you and your students.

Here are some helpful hints to help you through the earlier FAFSA:

- Request free publications and materials from the office of Federal Student Aid or the CSAC that you can use with students and parents at financial aid workshops.
- Submit GPAs as soon as possible. The CSAC opened the submission window on June 10, 2016. This will benefit students by providing earlier award notifications.
- Students who file their FAFSA earlier will receive their Student Aid Reports (SAR) earlier. Ask students to bring their SARs to you to discuss additional institutions they should consider applying to based on their predicted federal aid.
- Students might be curious about their institutional aid as well. Use the College Abacus net price calculator to help students estimate their institutional aid.
- If you need additional support, do not hesitate to contact Institutional Support at or [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-294-0153.

## Useful Links

- [Federal Student Aid—FAFSA Completion by High School](#)
- [College Board—Prior-Prior Year](#)
- [NASFAA—PPY Checklists](#)

***Thank you to the following districts for submitting their GPAs already:***

***Los Angeles USD  
Acalanes UHSD  
Liberty UHSD  
El Dorado UHSD  
Delano Joint UHSD  
Kern HSD  
Antelope Valley UHSD  
Whittier UHSD***

## Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Outreach Workgroup

The CSAC has established a workgroup intended to improve financial aid outreach to AANHPI students, families, and organizations serving these students.

Our main objective is to collaborate with community members, high school faculty, and financial aid administrators to discuss issues that are affecting AANHPI students as they graduate high school and pursue college, brainstorm ways to outreach to AANHPI students and their families to let them know about financial and educational opportunities that are available, as well as create and continue to support outreach events to the AANHPI students and community.

If you are interested in joining the CSAC's AANHPI Workgroup, please contact Minna Tran at [minna.tran@csac.ca.gov](mailto:minna.tran@csac.ca.gov). Please include any comments or questions you may have about outreach to this mailbox.

# Operations Memos and Special Alerts from the California Student Aid Commission

- GSA 2016-33 [2017-18 Online California Dream Act Application Release](#)
- GSA 2016-28 [California Cash for College Workshop Registration Begins](#)
- GOM 2016-25 [Reminder: 2016-17 High School Graduation Confirmation for Entitlement Cal Grant Offered Awardees](#)
- GOM 2016-21 [2016-17 California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Update](#)
- GOM 2016-20 [FAFSA—California Dream Act Application Corrections](#)

## Commission's Institutional Support Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Nai Saeteurn

**Title:** Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Hometown:** Sacramento, CA

**Graduated from:** BA in Psychology, University of California, Riverside

**How long have you worked with CSAC:** 3 years total, the past 2 years have been with Institutional School Support

**Favorite Part of Your Job:** Being able to assist schools and working with the Institutional Support Unit.

**What are some of your daily tasks:** Assist high school counselors and college financial aid administrators with student and program inquiries via phone and email, host and present webinars, and create trainings for in person workshops and special training requests.



### Contact Us:

#### California Student Aid Commission

11040 White Rock Road

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Visit us on the web at: [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

#### Institutional Support Unit

Toll Free (888) 294-0153

Email: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

#### Technical Support

Toll Free (888) 294-0418 or (16) 464-7222

Email: [csachelpdesk@csac.ca.gov](mailto:csachelpdesk@csac.ca.gov)